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**Fast Gas:** 214, 371 team up in Afghanistan

... page 3

#### WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Mostly Sunny High: 115 Low: 85 Saturday: Partly Cloudy High: 114 Low: 85 Sunday: Partly Cloudy High: 111 Low: 83

Serving Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona

# DESERT WARRIOR

Aug. 27, 2009 Volume 8, Number 34 www.yuma.usmc.mil

# Defense board calls for NSPS overhaul

Jim Garamone American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – In its final report released Aug. 19, a Defense Business Board task group has recommended a "reconstruction" of the National Security Personnel System.

The performance-based civilian payroll sys-

tem, in place since 2003, must be rebuilt, the report stated.

"A 'fix' could not address the depth of the systemic problems discovered," according to the report.

The report also recommended to continue the moratorium on switching more general schedule

employees to NSPS until the system can be re- on the department to invest in its civilian career built.

About 205,000 of the 865,000 Defense Department civilians are already in NSPS, including 115

of the 449 eligible civilian positions on station, said Florence Fitch, human resources director.

However, the report did not recommend to abolish the NSPS because the performance management system that has been created is achieving alignment of employee goals with organizational goals.

"Reconstruction is a level of effort and sophistication more than just fixes," said Rudy DeLeon, the board chairman and former deputy defense secretary. "It's going to require a significant amount of diagnosis before you come in with reconstruc-

tion."

Any reconstruction needs to include input from the work force in making the needed changes, the report stated.

The task group called on the department to reestablish a "commitment to partnership and collaborating with employees through their unions." It also called

see NSPS page 4

# Station energy program earns SecNav honors

A 'fix' could not address

the depth of the systemic

- Review of the National

Secuirty Personnel System report

problems discovered.

Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Desert Warrior Staff

The air station won a blue-level achievement award for a well-rounded energy program for the 2009 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Awards, which were announced in All Navy Message 52/09 Aug. 14.

Blue level recognition identifies overall significant achievement in energy and water manage-

Installations were judged on their energy policy, energy training, new and nontraditional initiatives, energy and water management practices, energy awareness programs, as well as energy and water reduction results.

Although the station's energy reduction has not

seen major improvements, its recent water conservation efforts have been very effective.

"A large part of our success in water management is from xeriscaping," said Cmdr. Jake Ellwood, installations and logistics director. "We've substantially reduced our water use by replacing high-maintenance plants with desert plant life, which doesn't need as much water."

These improvements to the station's water conservation efforts also contributed to the station receiving a 2008 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award in April.

The energy and water management awards comprise four levels of achievement, starting with the winners and going down to platinum, gold and

see AWARD page 4

### Smoking ace



Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Maj. John "Radish" Ferguson, Marine Attack Squadron 311 pilot, vertically lifts off in an AV-8B Harrier here Aug. 19 during practice for an air show demonstration in Missouri. Ferguson demonstrated the Harrier's maneuverability at the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport air show in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday and Sunday, by executing several high-speed flybys and vertical takeoffs and landings. The squadron also plans to participate at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, Calif., air show in October.

# Bravery under fire earns EOD Marine Bronze Star



Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Master Gunnery Sgt. Lee Sherwood, explosive ordnance disposal staff noncommissioned officer in charge, is congratulated by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Simon Wade, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 EOD officer in charge, after being awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Combat V during a ceremony here Friday. Sherwood received the award for his actions under enemy fire while deployed in Afghanistan from April to September 2008.

Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant Desert Warrior Staff

A station explosive ordnance disposal technician was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Combat V during a ceremony at Ditto Hall here Friday.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Lee Sherwood, station EOD staff noncommissioned officer in charge, earned the award for his heroic actions while deployed in Afghanistan from April to September 2008.

According to the award citation, on April 29, 2008, Sherwood, while under enemy fire, marked the location of nearby Taliban fighters with smoke grenades so they could be engaged.

Using a clearing charge to reduce an improvised explosive device blast, Sherwood then proceeded to detonate an IED, all while under enemy rocket fire.

The fire fell close to his team's unarmored vehicle, forcing them to seek cover. Fearing the vehicle – carrying an EOD robot, explosives and other gear – would fall into enemy hands, Sherwood rushed to the vehicle and drove it more than 300 meters to safety.

Furthermore, on Aug. 4, 2008, Sherwood responded to yet another IED located on top of an observation post and disarmed it by hand.

During the deployment to the Helmand Province of Afghanistan, Sherwood regularly attached with units of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's ground combat element to destroy IEDs, unexploded ordnance and weapons caches.

"The IED problem wasn't as bad then as it probably is now," said Sherwood. "The Taliban had never had to fight a force as formidable as the Marines at that time. The Marines strong push into the Helmand River Valley destroyed their will to fight, and denied them the ability to gain a foothold in the region."

Sherwood, while grateful for the award, recognized that he is not the only Marine that deserves recognition.

"So many Marines out there deserve it," said Sherwood. "I don't feel that I deserve it any more than other Marines. especially ones that have given their lives out there. I'm just appreciative that I made it through and was able to come

see EOD page 4

DESERT WARRIOR Aug. 27, 2009

### Not in the line of duty Misconduct injuries can affect receiving benefits

Lt. Col. Michael E. Sayegh Staff Judge Advocate

Reckless behavior is selfish and jeopardizes the health, safety and combat readiness of both Marines and sailors, often with unintended consequences that affect families, friends and communities.

One of those consequences not often motioned is the negative impact on medical or survivor benefits.

While most of the country is paying close attention to Congress' attempts to overhaul our nations' health care system, those of us on active duty need not worry. We sleep well at night knowing that all our injuries will be cared for both immediately and free of charge. That is, of course, unless our injuries are incurred "not in the line of duty and due to our own misconduct."

Any time a service member dies, or incurs a disease or injury that may result in a permanent disability or in the physical inability to perform duty for a period exceeding 24 hours, a determination must be made as to whether the disease or injury was incurred in the line of duty or as the result of misconduct.

To be eligible to receive certain retirement and severance pay benefits, service members on active duty who sustain injuries resulting in permanent disability must have received those injuries in the line of duty and not due to their own misconduct. Some of the most important benefits are your potential survivor benefits, disability retirement pay, and severance pay.

The determination regarding line of duty/misconduct will be made by the service members' general court-martial convening authority in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General and is generally binding on the physical evaluation board

Although alcohol and drugs are commonly involved in cases of injury or death, intoxication by drugs or alcohol generally can't be the sole basis for a finding of misconduct. Neither will acts of simple or ordinary negligence standing alone be enough for a finding of misconduct.

An injury or disease suffered by a service member will always be presumed to have been incurred in the line of duty and not as a result of misconduct.

Except in very limited circumstances, the only way to overcome this presumption is if it can be shown by clear and convincing evidence that the injury or death was the result of the service member's intentional misconduct or willful neglect that demonstrates a reckless disregard for the foreseeable and likely consequences of the conduct involved.

Some possible examples would include: drag racing at excessive speeds, reckless operation of a motorcycle without proper protective equipment, horseplay with weapons, explosives or flammables, illegal diving from bridges or cliffs, or reckless operation of boats or watercraft while intoxicated.

Despite what appears to be a very high level of reckless behavior required for a negative finding, Marines and sailors have all too often shown themselves capable of finding ways to injure or kill themselves in a manner found to be "not in the line of duty and due to their own misconduct."

Fear of losing ones' medical or survivor benefits should not discourage Marines and sailors from participating in sports and activities that promote physical fitness, physical courage or skill development. Such activities include marathons, parachute jumping, mountain biking, climbing and scuba diving. However, all such activities must be accompanied by good judgment and common

It is important to remember that if you choose to act recklessly and injure or kill yourself, your injuries and your family may not be covered to the extent you and they deserve.

### **Evacuation evaluation**



Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit board a KC-130J Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 during a noncombatant evacuation operation exercise on the station flight line Aug. 17. The NEO was part of the 11th MEU's special operations capable certification process. The training prepared the unit for their upcoming deployment this fall. A detachment from Yuma's Marine Attack Squadron 513 is scheduled to join the 11th MEU for the deployment.

# Don't become a liberty statistic next holiday

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Lehnert

Marine Corps Installations West Commanding General

Labor Day originated in 1882 as the Central Labor Union of New York City sought to create "a day off for the working citizens." Traditionally, Labor Day is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer.

This holiday is approaching, and the "101 Critical Days of Summer" are almost over.

Many of us will use the holiday to take that last long weekend with our families before school starts again or that last summer trip to the beach or Las Vegas. Whatever your plans are for this holiday, always keep safety in mind.

Plan your driving route to account for increased holiday traffic. Drive defensively and never drive after using alcohol. Use common sense when bicycling, swimming and other water sports. You should especially avoid mixing alcohol and water-related activities. Keep an eye on your buddies. And be mindful of the hazards associated with simple activities such as grilling or home maintenance. Wear your seatbelt—even on short trips. Be the safety leader.

Enjoy your holiday safely. We need you back to support the finest

fighting force in the world, the U.S. Marine Corps.

Return as a warfighter, not as another statistic.

Semper Fidelis Marines!

# Service members to receive H1N1 shots

Christen N. McCluney American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – August is National Immunization Month, and a senior Navy medical official encouraged service members to be up to date on flu vaccines during a "Dot Mil Docs" interview Aug. 20 on Pentagon Web Radio.

"Anyone that is active duty should receive a vaccine," said Navy Capt. Neal A. Naito, director of clinical care and public health at the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. "We need to protect our service members as they go about protecting our country."

As early as next week, military treatment facilities will start receiving the flu vaccine and will start rolling out their campaigns to encourage people to be vaccinated. Not all facilities will receive their vaccines at the same time, Naito noted, so beneficiaries should watch for local information.

The flu vaccines come in two types of formulations: a nasal-spray vaccine and the so-called "flu shot."

"There is no reason to avoid the (vaccinations) because of the two different formulations," Naito said. "The needle technology these days is so great that it is almost pain-free getting these injections."

Naito added that the seasonal flu vaccines may provide some slight protection against other influenza viruses such as H1N1, but he encouraged beneficiaries to get the individual shots for other strains as well. Vaccinations for H1NI and other infections can be received at the same time.

Navy Medicine has been in the forefront of flu surveillance activity for many years, Naito said. The Naval Health Research Center, part of the Defense Department's Global Emerging Infections System, picked up the initial presence of H1N1 flu in the United States in April and continues to monitor areas where influenza viruses typically show up first to protect the health of service members and their families.

"The reason why we are starting this seasonal influenza vaccine campaign early is because of the national strategy," said Naito. "The government asked manufacturers to make the seasonal vaccines early so that they then could also manufacture adequate stocks of the H1NI vaccines. So it's key to get the seasonal vaccine as early as possible, which allows us to roll out the H1N1 vaccines more efficiently."

Getting your vaccinated early helps not only the individual, but also the community, said Naito.

"Immunization remains the primary method of reducing seasonal flu illness and its complications," he explained. "Seasonal influenza can be a disease that is problematic for people and can be severe."

Navy Medicine will monitor the seasonal influenza virus carefully over the coming weeks and months and will be proactive in developing contingency plans to address any public health issues, the Naito said.

"The health and well-being of all our beneficiaries is our highest priority in Navy medicine," said Naito.

# Chapel Call

#### "THE POWER OF HOPE"

Lt. Shawn Osborne Station Protestant Chaplain

Several years ago researchers performed an experiment to see the effect hope has on those undergoing hardship.

Two sets of laboratory rats were placed in separate tubs of water. The researchers left one set in the water, and found that within an hour they had all drowned.

The other rats were periodically lifted out of the water and then returned. When that happened, the second set of rats swam for more 24 hours.

Why? Not because they were given rest, but because they suddenly had hope! Those rats somehow hoped that if they could stay afloat just a little longer, someone would reach down and rescue them.

If hope holds such power for unthinking rats, how much greater should its effect be on our lives? This story should be especially useful for anyone who is thinking about suicide.

I'm not going to downplay the seriousness of anybody's situation, but I do know this: the sun will rise again in the east and with it holds another chance to make things better. I can tell you from experience there have been times in my life where I thought there was no way I was going to get out of the hole I had dug for myself, but God gave me another day and another opportunity to work out of it.

As I put greater trust in God, he proved himself over and over again that he is trustworthy, holy, and loves me unconditionally. Because of that, my trust (faith) in God steadily increased.

My hope is in God and he has never let me down. He will never let you down either. Put your hope and trust in him today.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

#### DESERT WARRIOR

**Col. Mark A. Werth** Commanding Officer

Capt. Rob Dolan
Public Affairs Officer

**Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon**Public Affairs Chief

Staff Sgt. Ryan O'Hare Press Chief **Lance Cpl. Josue Aguirre**Layout and Design Editor

The Desert Warrior is printed Thursday each week by Aerotech News and Review, Inc., at no cost to the government. It complies with publication and printing requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps.

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Photos by Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto

A Marine Attack Squadron 214 AV-8B Harrier receives fuel July 29 during a rapid refueling test at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. The squadron tested its rapid refueling abilities at a forward refuel point with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 at Camp Bastion in the Helmand Province on Monday.



Gunnery Sgt. Jose Pimentel, Marine Attack Squadron 214 quality assurance chief, straightens a fuel line leading to one of the unit's AV-8B Harriers July 29 at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. The squadron tested its rapid refueling abilities at a forward refuel point with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 at Camp Bastion in the **Helmand Province on Monday.** 

# Yuma 214, 371 squadrons gas-and-go in Afghanistan

It was good to do what we had

— Cpl. Robert Moore

VMA-214 seat mechanic

trained to do. ... The training

became a reality.

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto Desert Warrior Staff

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – The two Yuma units currently deployed to Afghanistan teamed up here Monday to test their

speedy NASCAR-style aircraft refueling capabilities.

camp's expeditionary air field, where a veritable pit crew from Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 waited with fuel.

With ongoing operations throughout Afghanistan's Helmand Province despite the successful government elections Aug. 20, the seconds saved getting air support back to the fight can translate into Marines' lives.

Shortly before the arrival of the Harriers, a group of maintainers from

the "Black Sheep" squadron flew here from Kandahar Airfield, where VMA-214 is based.

After rushing to the refueling area, the maintainers began a thorough cleanup of the taxiway. To help complete the cleanup, British Royal Air Force's 2 Mechanical Transport, from Wittering, England, used its own assets to help clear the taxiway of all foreign objects and debris.

With the runway cleaned, the jets were cleared to land. Once

the jets landed, Black Sheep plane captains ushered the Harriers to an MWSS-371 forward aircraft refueling position.

"Normally, a jet will take in approximately 1,000 to 1,500 (gallons) of fuel at a given time," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brad Kussatz, MWSS-371 fuels officer.

After the pit stop, Marines also added water to cool the Harriers' turbine and then sent them back to Kandahar.

If needed, the unit could have another station to load or remove Yuma's Marine Attack Squadron 214 landed two Harriers to the ordnance as well, said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Pearcey, VMA-214 ordnance chief.

> This mission, as well as other similar tests held during the deployment, proved that more rapid refuels can be planned

> for the future, said Maj. James Bardo, VMA-214 maintenance officer. The squadron tested rapid refueling at the Kandahar Airfield in July, but the

> Camp Bastion success was done on an expeditionary airfield. The unit trained specifically for rapid

ground refueling March 23-25 at a strategic expeditionary landing field at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., which many deploying units

use due to the similarity of its terrain with Afghanistan's. "It was good to do what we had trained to do," said Cpl. Robert

Moore, VMA-214 seat mechanic. "The training became reality." Both Yuma squadrons fall under the operational control of Marine Aircraft Group 40 within Marine Expeditionary Brigade-

Afghanistan.

## Station employee makes eliminating FOD his mission

Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant **Desert Warrior Staff** 

A new tool that removes foreign object debris from tire tread has become standard equipment in vehicles on the station flight line.

The "FOD wrench" allows Marines entering the flight line to efficiently and quickly remove FOD, reducing potential aircraft damage.

After several meetings with base personnel about FOD prevention, Dave McCollum, assistant resident officer in charge of construction, took it upon himself to create the tool to help minimize the problem.

"The station is home to four Harrier squadrons, and Harriers are the most FOD sensitive aircraft in the Marine Corps," said Greg Mc-Shane, airfield operations officer.

FOD is debris that can be ingested by aircraft engines and cause major damage to the aircraft, or even death to the pilot, said McShane. Even the smallest debris, such as rocks, weeds, boot bands, washers and small nuts can cause serious damage.

So far this year, Marine Aircraft Group 13 has replaced eight Harrier engines due to FOD,

said McShane. Each engine can cost as much as \$600,000 to replace. Last year, MAG-13 replaced 27 engines due to FOD.

The tool is a two-foot long shaft that has a slightly bent, pointed end and has proven very effective in removing FOD from various types of tire tread, said McShane.

McCollum invented the device on his own time out of old brass lightning rods. He even made enough to outfit all of the vehicles used by the ROICC's office and base operations.

Marines benefit from the increased leverage provided by the tool and no longer need to use their fingers and keys to get rocks out of tires, said McCollum.

"The ROICC's office is very concerned about FOD," said McCollum.

The RIOCC's office is responsible for construction and improvements around station, and routinely travels on flight line.

The FOD wrench makes it easier for Marines to clear tires of FOD before entering the flight line, said McCollum.

"I think it's great that we have a civilian that has embraced our FOD program and provided us with a tool to help," said Col. Mark Werth, station commanding officer and pilot.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Cpl. Lydwin Grizzle, a base operations flight clearance clerk, uses a foreign object debris wrench to remove rocks from the tire of a vehicle on the flight line here Monday. Dave McCollum, assistant resident officer in charge of construction, designed the tool for Marines to remove FOD from tire tread.

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#### NSPS ... from page 1 \_

work force.

requires commitments in time, money and effort.

A pay-for-performance system needs to evolve, he

"Trying to do something too quickly, too ambitiously, may not produce the desired result," he said.

Specifically, the Defense Department must address pay pools and their lack of transparency. The department also must examine pay bands, especially Pay Band 2, which has a large portion of the defense work force. The group said that pay band lacks "clear linkage to career progression."

NSPS is eroding trust between supervisors and employees, according to the report.

The task group calls on the department to create a "collaborative process for managers and employees currently in the general schedule system to design and implement a performance management system that ties individual employee performance goals to organizational goals."

Part of this is to explore the replacement of the current general schedule classification system, said DeLeon.

"Never has the federal workforce, particularly in [the DeLeon said an effective pay-for-performance system Defense Department], been as important as it is right now," he said. "After a period of using contracting out, we've come back to an understanding of how critical the federal workforce is in terms of the national security mission of the United States."

Defense Department officials will use the board's recommendations as they ponder the system's future.

"We'll take the findings of the business board under advisement and study and work toward a decision on NSPS in the fall," Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Tuesday.

The DoD and the Office of Personnel Management jointly announced the review of NSPS on March 16. Created in May, the DBB task group met with union leaders and DoD stakeholders and conducted two public hearings in June. During the three month period of their review, the task group received more than 900 comments from the public.

The final report is available on the "Reports" page of Defense Business Board Web site at: http://www.defenselink. mil/dbb/2009.html.

#### Devil dogs



Photo by Cpl. Laura A. Mapes

Pfc. Michael Sullivan, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 ordnance technician, bathes a puppy at the Yuma Humane Society Aug. 17. Sullivan, along with seven other station Marines, volunteered their time via the Single Marine Program.

#### AWARD ... from page 1

Ellwood believes the station might have received a higher level of achievement if its energy efforts were further along.

"We're currently working toward energy reduction through solar panels, but it's still in the beginning stages," said Ellwood. "It hasn't been able to impact us enough yet to win an award."

"My experience with Yuma has been very favorable," said Rhonda Stewart, energy and water management awards coordinator. "Yuma is always really out in front, trying to implement new ways to save energy and water."

The station, along with Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Marine Barracks 8th & I in Washington, D.C., and others, will receive certificates of achievement. MCAS Miramar, Calif., and MCRD Parris Island, S.C.,

were two of seven top-level award winners, receiving \$45,000 and \$30,000, respectively, for their accomplish-

The platinum level installations and ships each received \$5,000 for outstanding energy programs.

The gold level included Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay and Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif.

The top award winners and platinum installations are invited to be recognized at the award ceremony at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., Oct. 27 and are permitted to fly the secretary of the Navy energy flag for one year. Gold installations are also invited to the ceremony.

"Most of the 120 bases in the Navy and Marine Corps were not named in these awards. So even receiving the blue level is an accomplishment to be proud of," said Bill Taylor, Naval Facilities Engineering Command energy director.

#### **EOD** ... from page 1

back and see my family."

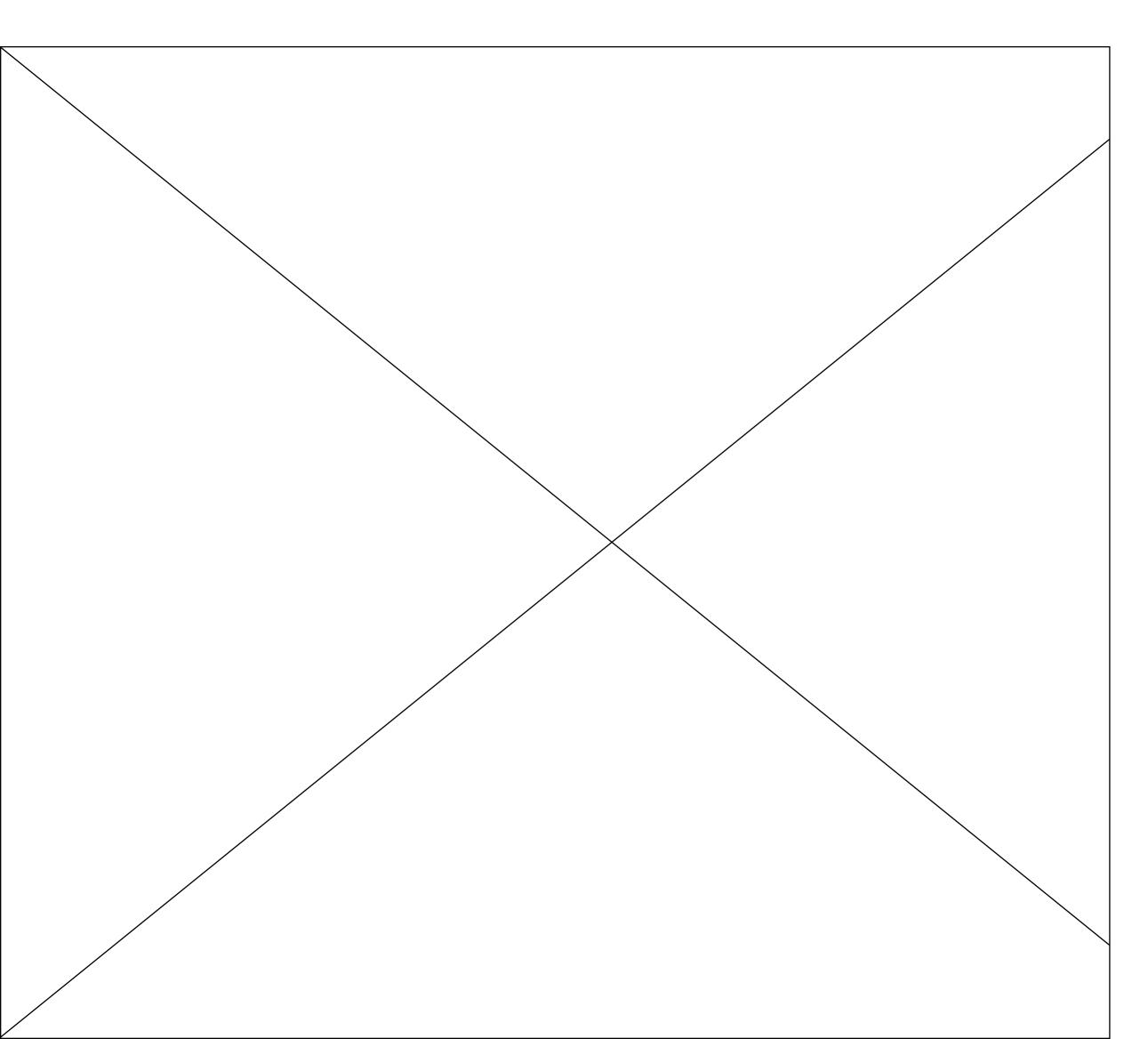
Sherwood has gained the trust, support and respect of the Marines he leads and works with.

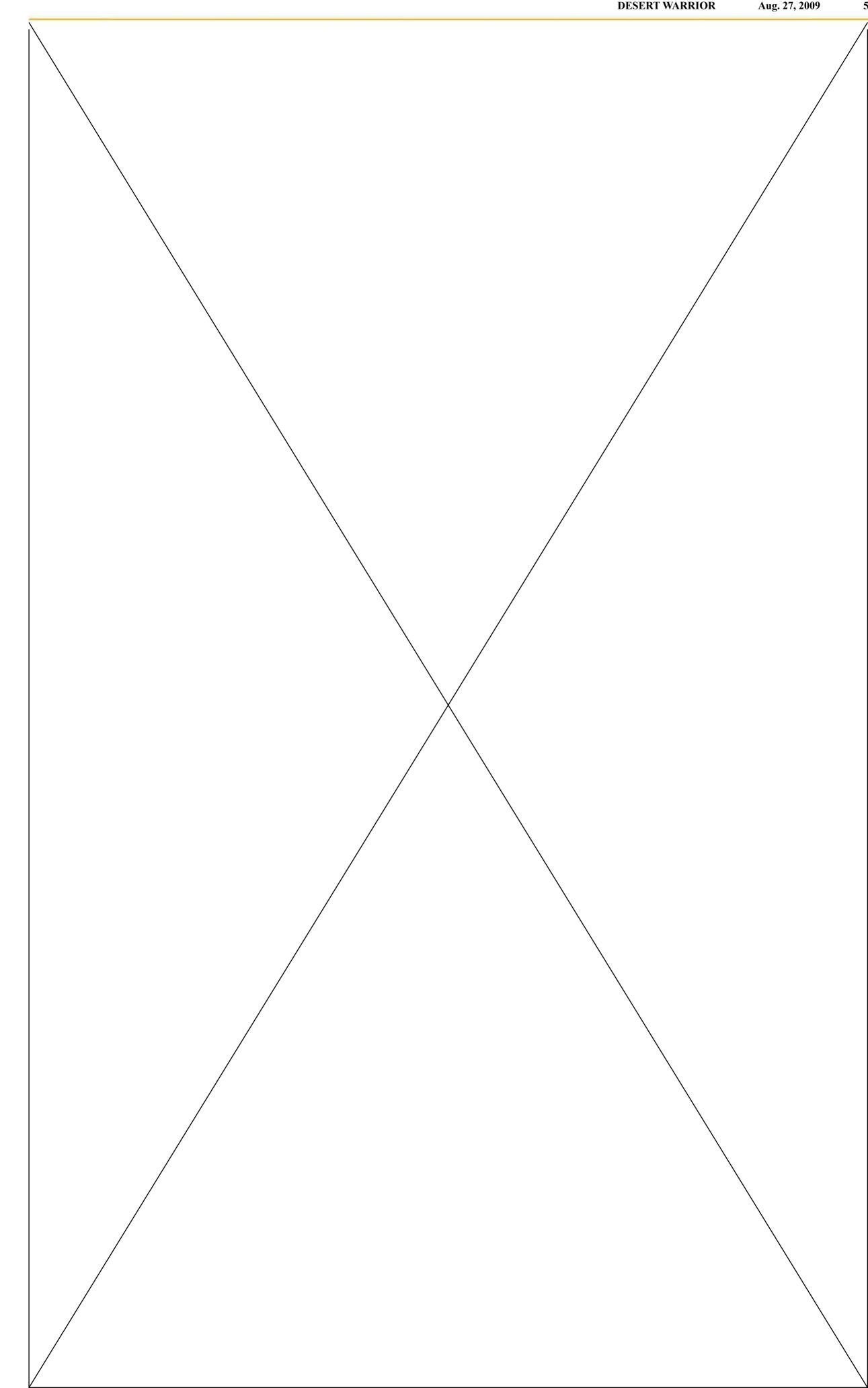
"Sherwood is a pleasure to work with," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ralph Crye, station EOD officer in charge. "He knows his job, puts an emphasis on training, takes care of his Marines and promotes mission accomplishment, all while remaining very humble."

"It's a great day when we can award and recognize a true American hero," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Simon Wade, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 EOD officer in charge who has worked with Sherwood in the past.

Sherwood's father was also awarded a Bronze Star for actions during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. Sherwood's father never talked about his wartime experiences, and his family didn't know he had earned the award until after his father's death.

"It is a great privilege to follow in my father's footsteps and receive the same award he did," said Sherwood.





## AT EASE

### Big pimpin'



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jakob Schulz

Cpl. Viraj Edwards stands with his wife and daughter after winning the station Single Marine Program's Pimp My Ride contest Friday. Edwards' 1984 Volkswagen Vanagon will receive \$7,500 in improvements from local automotive businesses, including a new paint job, sound system, tires and interior. Due to a last minute contribution, \$1,500 was added to the original prize of \$6,000. The Vanagon was chosen from 25 "clunkers" because of the sentimental value the vehicle has for Edwards. His father brought the vehicle to the United States piece by piece from Germany in 1985, said Edwards. In 1986, the vehicle was constructed and has been in Edwards' family ever since.

## **Smart & Safe** Calendar

The following traffic safety courses are offered on station:

Basic Motorcycle Riders Course - Sept. 1-3, 15-17, 29-Oct. 1

Required for all active duty personnel who ride a motorcycle on or off base as well as anyone who rides on base. All personnel must possess a valid state-issued motorcycle endorsement or permit. Motorcycles, gloves and helmets are provided. The 15-hour course is held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first day and 6-11 a.m. on the second and third days

Experienced Motorcycle Riders Course - Sept. 8, Oct. 6

Required for all personnel within Marine Forces Pacific and its subordinate units who ride cruiser-style motorcycles. It must be completed within 120 days after completing the Basic Motorcycle Riders Course. Others who are eligible may also attend. Personnel must possess a state-issued motorcycle endorsement, motorcycle and personal protective equipment. The course

Military Sport Bike Riders Course - Sept. 22, Oct. 20

Required for all personnel who ride sport bike-style motorcycles and must be completed within 120 days after completing the Basic Motorcycle Riders Course. Personnel must possess a state-issued motorcycle endorsement, motorcycle and PPE. The course is held from 6-11 a.m.

Alive at 25 - Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 19

Required for all Marines under 26 years of age. Military dependents under 26 may also attend. The course is held from 8 a.m. to noon.

#### **ATV Course and Dirt Bike Course**

These courses are required for anyone who rides an ATV or dirt bike on Department of Defense property. However, the classes are available to all ATV or dirt bike riders. Participants must supply their own ATV or dirt bike and PPE. Separate five-hour classes are held on an as-needed basis for each type of vehicle. Call the traffic safety office to apply.

Eligibility: Unless specified above, all courses are available to active duty, dependents, retirees, active reservists and Department of Defense employees. Contractors are not eligible.

Classes are first-come, first-served and class schedules are subject to change. Registered students will be informed of course locations and any changes prior to the start of class.

All motorcycle courses must be scheduled through the student's unit motorcycle representative. All other courses must be scheduled by a staff noncommissioned officer or above.

In order to register for any motorcycle classes, riders must have motorcycles and PPE inspected by a unit motorcycle representative or at the station traffic safety office.

For more information, call the traffic safety office at 928-269-5769 or 928-269-5699.

#### **In Theaters**

#### Thursday

Away We Go (R) 7 p.m.

#### Friday

I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13) 6 p.m.

> Orphan (R) 9 p.m.

#### Saturday

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 7 p.m.

#### Sunday

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG) 5 p.m.

#### Monday

Public Enemies (R) 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday

Away We Go (R) 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday

\*Free admission\*

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 7 p.m.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE Call 928-269-2358 or visit http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org/theater.htm



**THUR** FRI

**LUNCH:** Ginger Pot Roast Chicken Noodle Soup Turkey w/ Vegetables Mashed Potatoes **Brown Gravy** Lyonnaise Carrots

**DINNER: BBQ Spareribs Beef Stew Buttered Egg Noodles** Confetti Rice Southern-style Greens Corn Bread

LUNCH: Clam Chowder **Beef Yakisoba** Fried Catfish Baked Macaroni & Cheese Simmered Corn Green Beans

**DINNER: Swedish Meatballs** Rotisserie Chicken Buttered Egg Noodles Rissole Potatoes Cauliflower Combo Black Eyed Peas

SATU

Breakfast Pizza French Toast Chicken Breast Sandwich and more **BRUNCH:** Eggs

Black Bean Veggie Chili

Hot Hominy Grits & Cereal

Creamed Beef w/ Biscuits

**BRUNCH**: Eggs

Pasta Scrambler

... and more

Swiss Steak w/ Brown Gravy Mexican Turkey Pasta Roasted Pepper Potatoes Fried Cauliflower **DINNER: Roast Pork** 

Baked Salmon Filet

Mashed Potatoes

Simmered Carrots

Broccoli Polonaise

Cilantro Rice

**DINNER:** Navy Bean Soup

SUN MON

LUNCH: Salisbury Steak Chicken w/ Rice Soup Chicken & Vegetable Pasta Mashed Potatoes Brown Gravy

**DINNER:** Turkey Pot Pie Dijon Pork Chop Scalloped Potatoes Steamed Rice Club Spinach Mixed Vegetables

**DINNER:** Chili Macaroni

Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Baked Chicken

Lyonnaise Potatoes

Simmered Peas

Carrots

**TUES** 

WEDN

**LUNCH: Tomato Soup** Hungarian Goulash w/ Noodles Asian BBQ Turkey Roast Rice Pilaf Vegetable Stir Fry

Santa Fe Glazed Chicken

Southwest Corn Chowder

Long Grain & Wild Rice

Sweet Potatoes Southern-style Greens

Herbed Green Beans

**LUNCH: Barbecue Spareribs DINNER:** Pepper Steak Cheese Tortellini w/ Marinara Steamed Rice California Vegetable Blend Calico Cabbage







**DESERT WARRIOR**A

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# Deployed Yuma Marine to attend U.S. Naval Academy

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto Desert Warrior Staff

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - A Yuma ordnance technician from Marine Attack Squadron 214 was selected to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, R.I.

Cpl. Thomas Fortuna, of Hamden, Conn., applied for the U.S. Naval Academy in February and was deployed three months later.

"I really wish I could have been able to finish my deployment, but this has been a goal of mine since I was a little kid," said the 21-year-old.

Fortuna reported to NAPS in July for 10 months of instruction in English, mathematics, chemistry and physics before beginning four years of education at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

"I have the determination to get my goals accomplished," said Fortuna. "I think I've been endowed with the tools that will allow me to succeed."

Before Fortuna reaches his goals, a tough road lies ahead. The academy has a 25 percent attrition rate, and

he will need to adapt to a student lifestyle.

"It will be frustrating for (Fortuna) to transition from a fleet environment to a rigid training environment," said Capt. Anthony Guidry, VMA-214 pilot and Naval Academy graduate.

Guidry said he believes Fortuna will not only make this adjustment quickly, but will also excel at school like he has in his Marine Corps career.

"I would like to come back to the Marines as an (intelligence) officer," said Fortuna, who is scheduled to graduate in 2014, once he completes the rigorous cur-

Fortuna has already demonstrated an ability to succeed by earning meritorious promotions to private first class, lance corporal and corporal during his Marine Corps career and has also completed three college courses.

"He's got all the qualities of a sergeant and he's only a corporal," said Master Sgt. James Carver, VMA-214 ordnance chief.

Although Fortuna has a challenging road ahead to accomplish his childhood dream, he has already shown a desire to lead and has made an impact as a positive role model for his fellow Marines.

# Yuma's Black Sheep docs aid Afghan national police trainees

Lance Cpl. Gregory Aalto Desert Warrior Staff

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Medical staff from Yuma's Marine Attack Squadron 214 aided Afghan national police trainees at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

A few of the ANP trainees, who were waiting for transportation at the squadron's hangar, had minor medical issues, such as headaches and an abscess.

"Helping them out was easily one of the most rewarding things I have done in my medical career," said Lt. Kenneth Alea, VMA-214 flight surgeon. "Such a simple thing was extremely gratifying."

One of the trainees was suffering from an abscess on his left forearm that originated from a bug bite. After fully cleaning the wound, Alea bandaged the arm and gave the future policeman antibiotics.

Alea and his two enlisted sailors helped nearly 15 ANP trainees, most of whom were from Helmand province, according to the group's translator.

## **OCS** field trip



Photo by Lance Cpl. Austin Hazard

Officer Candidate School candidates line up to question Capt. Rick Carmean, Marine Attack Squadron 311 pilot, about the cockpit of an AV-8B Harrier outside the squadron's hangar here Aug. 20. VMA-311 pilots taught 17 potential future aviators about squadron and Harrier history.

